

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment has been submitted to more particularly claim the present invention. Claims 1-30 are pending, and claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 14-16, and 18 have been amended.

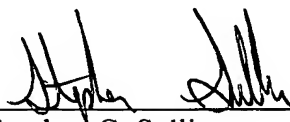
The Specification has been amended to include missing relating application information, and the Abstract has been shortened in length. In addition, both the Specification and the Drawings have been amended to refer to "FIG. 2" as "FIGS. 2A and 2B." Attached hereto are replacement figures for FIGS. 2A and 2B.

The claims of the parent application were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Laidig et, al (US Publication No. US2003/0082463). Submitted herewith is a 37 CFR 1.131 Declaration to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the effective date of Laidig (priority provisional filing date of October 9, 2001). The Declaration sets forth facts sufficient to show reduction to practice of the present invention prior to October 9, 2001.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants' attorney believes that this Application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date



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